

## ABSTRACT

In a computer system that includes a first computer, a second computer, a first storage  
5 apparatus storing data in a fixed-length block format used by the second computer, and  
a backup apparatus connected to the first computer and storing data in a variable-  
length block format, the present invention provides a backup method for backing up  
data stored in the first storage apparatus to the backup apparatus. The first computer  
sends the second computer a request to read data in the fixed-length block format. In  
10 response to this request, the second computer reads the fixed-length block format data  
from the first storage apparatus and transfers this data to the first computer. The first  
computer converts the transferred fixed-length block format data into variable-length  
block format data. The converted variable-length block format data is stored in the  
backup apparatus.